

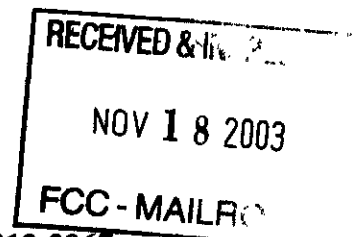
MARYLAND FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

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November 3, 2003

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary, Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WT Docket No. 02-55 (Public Safety on 800 Megahertz Band)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The need for fire, rescue and EMS personnel to be able to quickly and efficiently communicate in times of crisis has never been greater.

On behalf of the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association and our 950 members, who are on the frontlines of fighting fires and ensuring the safety of Maryland citizens and emergency personnel everyday, we're writing to urge the FCC Commission to approve the Consensus Plan to prevent radio interference to public safety communications systems.

The FCC Chairman has said this is a top priority for the FCC. The FCC has committed to all fire fighters to address this serious topic, and as time passes, our danger from this problem continues to grow.

The Consensus Plan is the only proposal before the FCC that addresses this difficulty directly, and is the only proposition that has the support of America's leading public safety organizations, including:

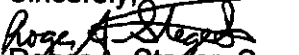
- The International Association of Fire Chiefs
- Association of Public Safety Communications Officials
- The International Association of Chiefs of Police
- Major City and County Sheriff's Associations

Together with the private sector members of the Consensus Plan, more than 90 percent of affected licensees in the 800MHz band agree this is the finest way to work out this problem for public safety now. The Consensus Plan requires no public money and cost taxpayers nothing.

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We cannot afford to wait any longer. Our Officers and members hope the FCC will approve this plan soon, so we can get on with the process of rebanding and correct this communications problem.

Sincerely,


Roger A. Steger, Sr.
Vice President

cc: Senator Sarbanes
Senator Mikulski
Representative Gilchrest
Representative Ruppertsberger
Representative Cardin
Representative Wynn
Representative Hoyer
Representative Barlett
Representative Cummings
Representative Van Hollen
FCC Chairman Powell
FCC Commissioner Abernathy
FCC Commissioner Adelstein
FCC Commissioner Copps
FCC Commissioner Martin